

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, March 3, 2003

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, March 3, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair

Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson

Planning Commissioner Lyle Werner

Vice Chair Ric Knight

Peg Coleman

Andrew McClellan

Town Staff Present

Mike Bomgardner

Calvin Grow

Sgt. Mark McCartney

Nick Colonna

Citizens/Visitors Present

Craig Lane

1. On motion by Ric Knight, seconded by Calvin Grow, the minutes of the February 3, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.
2. *Public Comment:* The Committee acknowledged Craig Lane but Craig Lane indicated he had no public comments.
3. *Fort Evans Road, N.E. connection to DMV, off Edwards Ferry Road, N.E.:* Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson reported that Town Council member Robert Zoldos had asked for a staff report on the possibility of opening a street connection from Fort Evans Road, N.E. to the back of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) site in Leesburg Park off Edwards Ferry Road, N.E.
4. *Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Route 15 Bypass free flow turn lane:* Calvin Grow noted that the town was applying for \$500,000.00 from the Governor's Congestion Relief Program for construction of a free flowing right turn lane from Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. southbound onto the Route 15 Bypass. Liz Whiting asked how this would impact the fence project designed to discourage pedestrian crossings of the Bypass. Calvin Grow indicated that there was no conflict. The Committee noted that addition of the acceleration lane, besides increasing the distance the pedestrians cross, would also function to keep the entering driver focused on transitioning to the travel lane, to the detriment of any pedestrians to the right. Liz Whiting noted that this would either effectively discourage pedestrian crossings or lead to accidents. She also noted that the right turning Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. motorists are used to being able to transition to the left turn onto Fort Evans Road, N.E. and into the Leesburg Corner Outlets and noted that this seemed to be importing one more movement conflict similar to the notoriety of the "Mixing Bowl" on I-95/I-495 in Springfield. The Committee noted that would make it even more important for the Saf-T-Ride program to be effective. Ric Knight relayed complaints he had heard about gaps in service. Liz Whiting also noted that there had been a gap in reports from Loudoun Transit regarding Saf-T-Ride

usage and asked Calvin Grow to contact Mark McGregor for a report at the next meeting.

5. *Southwest Quadrant recommendation update:* Peg Coleman reported that new board members were taking office on the Woodlea Manor HOA and indicated that her group would be contacting them to reendorse the southwest traffic calming budget items. She questioned what had been done about seeking the installation of flashing warning lights south of the Woodlea Manor Drive/Route 15 South intersection. Calvin Grow informed the committee that public hearings would be coming up in May or June on the County portion of that project, and the Committee decided that they would plan to have both written comments and a speaker to raise the topic.
6. *FY '04 Budget traffic calming request status:* Calvin Grow reported that the Town Manager had included the Committee's request as modified at the February meeting. In response to questions by Lyle Werner, Liz Whiting confirmed that because the Way Finding project will include the major feature the Committee had backed on North King Street in the vicinity of the Toll House, the budget request substituted a new line item (\$5,000.00) for the pedestrian/bicyclist safety campaign, increased the southeast quadrant request to reflect the additional expense of the pedestrian crossing feature envisioned at the Community Center on Kincaid Boulevard, S.E., and added funds to study complementary "pinchpoint" features that would be added to the proposed intersection improvements recommended for the southwest quadrant. Calvin Grow also noted that Tom Mason thought it would be helpful if staff developed sketches of what the pinchpoint/intersection network would look like. Peg Coleman agreed it would be useful to develop a look of how the vehicles actually are parked on the streets on a regular basis (weeknights) in proposing where pinchpoints might be located and volunteered to have her group develop that information. Liz Whiting pointed out that the Committee should have the benefit of the Arlington County digital images and Wayne Henderson's graphics from the original Task Force report in working up illustrations.

When Lyle Werner questioned the absence of projects for the northwest quadrant and a small item requested for the northeast, Liz Whiting and Ric Knight reminded her that the entry feature on North King Street had been viewed as benefiting both the northwest and northeast quadrants, and that the trail link connecting to recent Fairview Street, N.E. improvements Ric Knight had been interested in is being funded as part of the Parks and Recreation budget. (They also noted that the southeast quadrant project in the Georgetown entry and northeast upgrade to the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E./Catocin Circle, N.E. intersection are in THIS year's approved budget.)

7. *Committee member concerns/New Business:* (i) Ric Knight raised concerns that because both private property owners and the town have been slow to

complete clearing sidewalks, pedestrians are walking in the street right-of-way in very dangerous situations. The Committee debated whether to encourage enforcement of the town ordinance requiring property owners to clear sidewalks abutting their properties or to have the town take out an ad encouraging neighbors to help one another clear the sidewalks to enhance pedestrian safety.

(ii) Liz Whiting noted that April is one of those months when the first Monday falls immediately before the second Tuesday, thus placing the Committee's staff support on call for the Town Council. After discussing problems with shifting to the second Monday, and on Craig Lane's suggestion, the Committee decided to set the next meeting (the "regular April" meeting) for Monday March 31, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, March 31, 2003. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.